

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

With the above amendments, claims 1 and 3-12 have been amended. Claims 1 and 3-77 are pending with claims 44-77 having been withdrawn from a prior restriction requirement. Thus, claims 1-43 are ready for further action on the merits. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments. Claim 1 has been amended by the incorporation of the subject matter of claim 2. All other amendments are for form or to make the claims properly dependent from claim 1. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 has been objected to because the Examiner asserts that the word "each" should be removed prior to the occurrences of "X" in claim 12. Applicants have amended the claim accordingly. Withdrawal of the objection is warranted and respectfully requested.

The Examiner also objects to claim 12 because the Examiner asserts that it is unknown if polymerization can be effected in the absence of component (b). Applicants have omitted the word "optionally" from claim 12. Thus, the issue is moot. Withdrawal of the objection is warranted and respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Canich '341 (US Patent No. 6,194,341).

Applicants traverse.

Applicants have amended claim 1 by the incorporation of the subject matter of claim 2. Because the Examiner has not rejected claim 2 over Canich '341, Applicants believe that the rejection has been obviated. In particular, Canich '341 fails to disclose or suggest that the intrinsic viscosity measured at 124°C in decalin is within a range of 0.2 to 18 dl/g. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the rejection has been obviated. Withdrawal of the rejection is warranted and respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujita '997 (US Patent No. 6,309,997).

Applicants note that this rejection is a 35 USC §103(a) rejection that qualifies as prior art under 35 USC §102(e). Applicants acknowledge that this reference was commonly owned with the instant application at the time of the later invention. Accordingly, this reference is no longer available as prior art

under the provisions of 35 USC §103(c). Withdrawal of the rejection is warranted and respectfully requested.

With the above remarks and amendments, Applicants believe that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg. No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

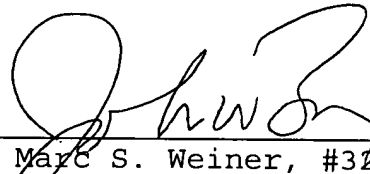
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$420.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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